

Forestry Department

It has been a busy summer for all the forestry seasonal summer crews. Although the season is winding down there is still a bit to do.

The Community clean up crew: There were a number of projects and all have been completed. Some of them included, cleaning up of the Heritage site and the ball field, restraining the NRC rear deck, fixing up the community smoke house, and of course keeping the grounds of the community clean and tidy. The biggest project they did was bucking and splitting the pile of fire wood behind the forestry shed, and of course delivering it to community members. The split firewood is almost gone. If any community members feel they do not have enough firewood to get thru the winter, please let the forestry department know, as I think we can get some more.

The Silviculture brushing crew: This crew was busy at the start of the season helping out with wood deliveries, and later placing access gates on various Treaty 8 roads to block public access. Since then they have been very busy brushing out a block in the Weedon Carp area. The block they have been working on is quite large, so it's taking a bit of time. But once they have completed that block the plantation will again be weed free grow. If time



permits there is more work at the McLeod lake east block.

The Layout crew: They have been busy at the Kerrie Lake east block putting in boundaries and in-block spur roads. The spruce bark beetle block they have been working on is now around 280 ha in size with 90,000 to 95,000 m3 of big spruce and Douglas Fir. We put the logging out to tender and West Fraser in Quesnel was the winning bidder. It was tendered out on the stump, meaning McLeod Lake will incur no cost to log the block. West Fraser will construct the in-block spur roads, log, and

haul to wood to their mill at their cost. All the lowbedding and road maintenance is also at their cost. West Fraser will just pay McLeod Lake Indian Band a royalty for the wood, based on stratum samples.

All four members of the layout crew took a spruce beetle probing course at UNBC earlier this fall, and if they passed the exam they will be certified and able to bid on government contracts for beetle probing. Because of the extent of the

beetle epidemic certified probers are in high demand. This will be an exciting opportunity for the crew.

Other ongoing projects:

Around the 17th of this month a consultant from Prince George will begin collecting field data in anticipation of producing a CWPP (Community Wildfire Protection Plan). He will be looking at the surrounding area around the community to assess the risk of a wildfire, affecting the community. These plans have really come to the fore front in light of the Fort Mac fire this summer. Once the CWPP is



complete in November, a prescription needs to be drafted. This will be a legal document outlining the measures that will be taken to clean up the

surrounding area. After it is approved the treatment will happen hopefully as early as next summer, whereby old logging slash and dry woody debris will be cleaned up in the surrounding area. This entire process is fully funded by certain government agencies.

The forestry department has other projects on the go, but my two typing fingers are getting sore, so until the next time.

Esa, Forestry Manager